

## The two faithfull Friends.

The pleasant History of *Alexander* and *Lodwike*, who were so like one another, that none could know them asunder : wherein is declared how *Lodwike* married the *Princesse* of *Hungaria* in *Alexanders* name, and how each night he layd a naked sword betweene him and the *Princesse*, because he would not wrong his friend.

To the tune of *Flying Fame.*



**T**he Emperour of Germany,  
a turney did Proclaime :  
Where many Princes of renowne,  
resorted to the same, (came  
Amongst the rest Prince Lodowike  
and Guido Prince of Spaine ;  
Prince Alexander likewise came  
great honours to obtaine.

The Emperours promise was to giue  
to him that won the day,  
his only daughter as his bride :  
the Story thus both say ;  
The Champions entered the field,  
with carriage stout and bold :  
Lodwike of France, most manfully  
whose Armour shined like gold.

Prince Alexander was the next  
that entered in the field,  
And like a champion stout and bold ;  
he did aduance his shield :  
The haughty Spaniard with the rest  
his valour there did shew,  
But Alexander by his strength,  
gave him the overthrow.

The valiant Prince of Hungary  
braue Alexander ha,  
from all the champions in the field  
he won the victory :  
Thus he by valour did obtaine  
the Princesse from them all,  
But yet in Hungary she liued  
that had his heart in th'all.

The Emperour his promise kept,  
and to the Conqueror gave :  
His only daughter for his wife  
whom Lodwike most did craue ;  
For loue had so inflam'd his thoughts  
and set his heart on fire :  
That for to gaine the Princesse loue  
it was his chiefe desire.

This Alexander was so like  
to Lodwike Prince of France,  
That he so lately had of th'owne  
by faue and fortunes chance :  
None could distinguish them aright  
or know one from the other,  
In shape stature and countenance ;  
as if they had bin brothers.

Which breed such loue betwixt them  
as could not be diuorced, (both  
Yet fortunes frowne, and sickle chance  
alunder them in force :  
Prince Alexander gave his friend  
the Emperours daughter free,  
Which he before had won in field :  
by manly Chivalry.

The enuious Spaniard being vext  
and tormented in his mind,  
He and the deuill deuised how  
to moue the leuers kind :  
He to the Emperour accus'd  
the Princesse of false Luff,  
And thus with word for to maintaine  
these accusations just.

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The second part.

To the same tune.

**P**rince Lodwick being thus accus'd,  
by Gydo Prince of Spaine,  
His friend Prince Alexander then  
this combat did maintain:  
And sent his friend Prince Lodwick  
to Hungary with speed, (straight  
There in his roomes for to possesse  
the high Imperiall weed.

Friend Lodwick, Alexander sayd,  
goe thou to Hungary;  
Against the Spaniard Ile maintaine  
thy cause most manfully:  
The King I on restand is dead,  
goe thou and in my place,  
Possesse the Crowne and dignity,  
and all the Royall grace.

That they will there bestow on thee,  
let it not be deny'd;  
His daughter likewise in my name  
make her thy wedded bride:  
But by our friendship I intreat,  
this handmaide at thy hands:  
That thou by no meanes doleste  
true constancies chaste hands.

Although thou wedde her as thy wife,  
yet know tis in my name,  
Let her remaine a virgin pure  
I doe requite the same:  
Because my heart she has in hold,  
and loue her as my life:  
Away be gone thou knauest my mind  
leane me to end this strife.

Prince Lodwike now is on his way,  
and Alexander hee,  
By fortunes and the Spaniard slew,  
and let the Princes free:  
Lodwike in Alexanders name  
receiv'd in Hungary,  
The Crowne, & likewise in the Church  
his wife receiv'd he.

But every night betwene them twain  
he naked swore he'd lay,  
Such constant friendship at that time  
his heart and thoughts did sway:  
Prince Alexander came himselfe  
then Lodwike tooke his leane,  
Of Alexander his deare friend  
which did him not deceiue.

The Queene in heart was vexed sore  
that she so long should ly,  
With him that was her husband deare  
and not Leues pastimes trye:  
Unto a Lord he made her mone,  
and they both did agree:  
To be reueng'd upon the King  
and poisoned he should be.

The payson tooke not full effect  
but brake forth on his face,  
That he a leper did appeare  
and then in great disgrace:  
They kickt & spurn'd him from the court,  
thus in most shamefull manner,  
He was compel'd to beg for food  
that lately liu'd in honor.

To Lodwicks Court he did repaire  
thus like a leper poore;  
And for reliefe he did intreate  
at his friend Lodwicks doore:  
A King he sent vnto his friend,  
who well the same did know;  
And came in loue to greet his friend  
willing to ease his woe.

Quoth Alexander vnto him,  
kind friend there is no way  
To ease my paine vnlesse that thou  
thy louing babes doe slay:  
What I'll but I will doe for thee,  
quoth Lodwike by and by,  
To ease my friends of this great paine,  
my pretty babes shall dye.

For which hee to the cradle goes,  
where they were fast asleepe,  
And with a knife he lets them blood  
his promise for to keepe: (sores  
And with their bloods he washt the  
from Alexanders face,  
Thus he like to a loyall friend  
the path of Loue did trace.

Thus Alexander being clear'd,  
of all his torturing paine,  
Lodwike vnto his Queene made known  
how he his babes had slaine  
This newes did grieue her at the heart,  
but straight she runs to see:  
Whether that it was so or no  
it prou'd the contrary.

For both the babes she found alive,  
as God would haue it so,  
Which did reuiue her drooping heart,  
now ioyes excedes all woe:  
King Alexander being well  
to Hungary he goes;  
And Lodwike his beloued friend  
to ouerthrow his foes.

The victorie they soone obtain'd,  
and toke the Lord and Queene,  
And doom'd them to such cruell death  
as yet had not beene seene:  
King Alexander againe was Crown'd,  
by helpe of his good friend,  
Their griefes to ioyes conuerted were,  
their pleasures did transcend.